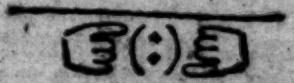
See Fox's Acts &c. p. 1147 Edit. 1526
p. 1772 - 3. — 1570
p. 1513 - 14 — 1576.

¶A Warnyng for Englande/Conteynyng the horrible practises of the Kyng of Spayne / in the Kyngdome of Naples / and the miseries wherunto that noble Realme is brought. Wherby all Englishe men may vnderstand the plage that shall light vpō them/yf the Kyng of Spayn obteyne the Dominion in Englande.



☞(:)☜

Beware of had I wist.

✠

Vol. 3 p. 372 Ed. 1641.
A. p. 517 WH. p. 4582.

Behold (good reader) in this horrible destruction of the kyngdō of Naples/wrought by the kyng of Spayne and his Spaniardes/ the present mysery that hangeth this day/ouer the noble realme of England. If it be trew that the Poet sayeth/ Happy is the mā that can beware by another mans mischief: then must they be twyse vnhappie/ who being admonished/ folow the fyre to the fyer/ coueting their owne destruction. A man warned/is double armed/is a saieng not more cōmon then trew: and because thys daunger of England toucheth not any one only sort of people therin/ but all/ of al sortes/ of what estate or religion soeuer they be/therfore is it most necessary that all Englishe men haue Understandinge of it. And so muche more is it necessari presently/ because the imminent and present daunger can not without gods present miraculous help/be auoided/and turned away from all/onles all ioyne not only in prayer/but also in policie & power together/ for thauoyding ther of/forseing by all meanes possible the perilous dominion of the Spaniards. And in thys foresight of our saftie/the chief thing to be cōsiderid/ and takē heed of in the Spanishe kynge and hys frends/is their fayre promisses/sugered talk/& colored frendship. If ye suffer wordes to bewitche your eares/ thā not your skyns alone/but also your hartes shal smart therfore/ all your childern/ and childers childrē herafter shal curse the tyme that euer their fathers begat them. Therfore whē the Spaniardes shall tempt you with their promisses/stop not one eare alone but both. Gyue not eare to any condition. When the serpent hath once entred with his head/he wil sone cōuey in the rest of his body. One vnaduised graūt/may gyue your enemies a knyf/to cut your owne throtes/and disherite your chyldren for euer/and bryng England vnwares to a most shamefull and perpetuall captiuitie. But when they shall feare lest their wordes/can not worke the summe of their wyll/ then wyll they make traps wyth rewardes/ and largi-

tions. With great gyftes/and yearely ſtypendes: & as many as they ſhal thynke moſt lyke / and willyng to play the parte of Judas/them wyl they corrupt and tye to treaſon wyth money/ and wil not care one button/though afterwarde Judas hange hym ſelfe for ſorowe/ ſo they haue once their purpoſe. Wo be to that mā/who beyng blynded with gayne as Judas was / betrayeth his countrey to ſtraūgers for money. It is not a wyſe mās parte to ſay/Had I wiſt: or I wolde litel haue thought/ the matter wolde haue come to thys paſſe. Whan thynges can not be amēded/it is to late to repent. Fond beggerly afterwit/ is the lorde Forwittes foole. If the nobilitie of Englande/and ſuche as be in authoritie wil be ruled by wyſedom / they muſt not be haſtye in folowing and ſatisfyeng the luſtes of Princes/but aboue al thinges they muſte take hede to the practiſes of the Byſſhoppes and clergie: for they may euidently ſee/that the clargye careth not what becommeth of the realme/ſo they maye reigne agayne/and haue the necks of the nobilitie tyed vnder their girdell. Hurt foloweth haſte of neceſſitie/whē God is not the guyde. But God can not be guyde to ſuche as be poyſoned eyther wyth lucre or pleaſure/and therfore/ haue no leaſure to loke to the ſaftie of their countrey. It is a woꝛld to ſe/how moſt men ſtande amaſed/beholdyng their owne miſchief. The Deuel ſemeth yet to them an angell of lyght: but when he ſhall appeare in his owne lykenes/ they which now be moſte in loue with the Prelats and Spaniardes/ ſhall curſe the tyme/that euer they knewe them. Aſlong as the dayes of ioye laſt / mā myndeth not mournynge. The bayte is pleaſaunt/till the hooke hath taken holde/ or the ſnare fal. Whoſe eyes be occupied with the gaſe of pleaſure or gayne/ they be wrapped in daunger/before they ſe their owne peryll. Blynde ioye is the mother of ſeyng woe/as thou mayeſt here after ſee practiſed by the kynge of Spayne/ in the kyngdome of Naples/ ſet forth to that intent before thyne eyes / that thou

mayeſt

mayst helpe the best thou canst by publysshyng the same to other/ to defende thy selfe / thy wyfe/thy chyldren and thy countrey.

Beware of had I wist.

The kyngdome of Naples is large & wyde/ lyeng in the East parte of Italy. And had in it ten Princes/nyne chief officers / neyntene Dukes/one and twenty Marqueses/thre and thirtye Earles besyde other Barōs & Lordes whose certayne nomber can not well be gotten. This kingdome came into the handes of the Spaniardes by a pretensed tytell of mariage. Longe tyme it was defended from the Emperour/ by Frances the Frenche kynge thys mans father. Duryng whych tyme/the people retayned theyr accustomed franchyses & lyberties/ And Naples for the beautye of the countrey/ and plentye of all thynge/was called the Paradyse of Italy. And when the Frenche kynge was taken prisoner at Pauia/ one condicion of hys delyuery was/that he should no lōger ayde with his power the kingdom of Naples/ And so the kynge of Spaine/ chalengyng his tytle by mariage / toke vpon hym the defense of the kyngdome/and then began his practises as foloweth. At the fyrst cōmyng of the Spaniards into the kyngdome of Naples/they flowed in their promyses/and offers of all kynde of frendshyp/ aswel for defense of the countrey/ kyngdome/and people/as also for preseruatiō of other olde fredomes and lybertics/with an vnfayned loue in outwarde apparaunce/ to theyr state and cōmon wealth. Suche was the coūtenaūce of the Spaniards/vntil theyr vnder thys clooke of amitie and frendshyp / crept so in credit with the people/that the chief of them were suffred to be setteled in certayne chief castels/fortresses and holdes/about both the cytie/ & coūtrey: All this whyle/the nobilitie and gentelme of Naples were in estimation / and had the ministration of Justice in their owne handes/and fewe

or none of the chefeſt offices in the common welth were geuen away from them. So that although they receyued the kyng of Spaine for their king/ yet was ther litel or nothyng minisshed of their welth/fredome/iuſtice/and liberties. For maynte-naunce wherof/and declaracō alſo that the Spa-nyſhe kyng ment none otherwyſe then he out-wardly pretēded/he appointed the Prince of Sa lerna/their owne countrey man/to be their lieute-naunt. Wherwith the people in the begynnynge/ contented them ſelues very well/& were in muche peace & quietnes. But the kynge of Spayne pur-poſyng in concluſion that myſery to the countrey/ which he hath now brought to paſſe/begā to ſeke them ſomwhat nygher: & for compaſſyng of his wycked intēt ſent thither one Don Pietro a Spa-niard/and ioyned him with the Prince of Salar-na as fellowe lieutenaunt in commiſſion. This Spaniard purpoſyng ſpedely to bryng the kyn-ges former fetches to paſſe/deuiſed meanes how he myght remoue the Prince from bearyng rule/ and this thyng he attempted by picking quarels dayly agaynſt the Prince/aſwell reyſyng falſe re-ports agaynſt hym amongſt the people/ as contri-uyng wicked and vntrew accuſations agaynſt him to the kyng/ to his vtter diſcredite/ and extreme peril. Wherupō the Prince/deſirouſe of quietnes/ withdrewe hymſelfe into one of his caſtels/ lea-uyng the whole gouernment to this Spaniard/ Wherwith the kyng of Spaine ſemed ſo wel con-tented/that he gaue not onlye ready eare to the ſpaniards falſe reportes agaynſt the Prynce/with out ſearchyng further the matter/but alſo incora-ged hym to go forewarde in his doynges as he had begon/ howbeit as yet the commiſſion was not altered/ and therfore thoughe the Prince of Salerna dyd nothynge/ yet remayned hys au-thoritie in the commiſſion ioyntly wyth the Spa-niard/ wherwyth the Spaniard beynge altoge-ther diſcontented/ ſought all meanes poſſible how

to

to kyl the Prince. And in this mynde he deuised to accuse the Prince of treason/wherunto the Prince refused not to offer his answer. But as the Prince cam frō his castel towardes his sayd answer to be made accordingly: the Spaniard apointed one to hyde hym selfe priuely in the mountaynes by the waye with a gunne to kyll the Prince/whē he should passe by: but the fellowe appointed to doe the murther/missed the Princes bodye/ and strake hym only in the legge. Wherby the Prince perceauyng the present daunger of death hangynge euery waye ouer hys head/ fled to Uenyce. Then the Spanyard entered the Prynces castell/ and toke his wyfe prisoner/ and wolde suffer none to come at her but hym selfe alone/and a keper by hym appointed. Unhappy is that honest woman that cōmeth to the kepyng of a Spaniard. Immediatlye he proclaymed the Prince traytour. And when the Prince sought redresse of these intollerable iniuries/at the Spanish kyngs handes/ he dyd not only leaue the offenders vnpunished: But also discharged all the inborne subiectes of the realme aswell gentlemē as other/from bearyng any kynd of rule throughout the whole kyngdome/ geuyng the whole trust & charge therof to the only Spaniardes. Under whome the gentlemen and other common people this daye lyue in muche worse cōdicion/then do the Christians vnder the Turkes/ as all men tyght well knowe/ who haue trauailed both countries. All these thynges the kyng of Spayne brought to passe wyth in. xv. yeres after hys fyrst entrye into the kyngdome of Naples: & from that tyme hetherto/ the Spaniardes haue bene only lordes and maisters ouer all/byddyng & forbiddyng what them lusteth. No man can kepe hys owne house/when it once lyketh them. No writinges of landes/ or tytell of inheritaunce can serue agaynst their fearfull force/ and lawles tyrānie. The gentlemen of the countrey be many of them put to death without any maner of cau e/

other thē for cōplaynyng vpō theyr owne mysery/ amongest whom the Popes brother that now is/ was one/and the rest of his stocke was banished. So that of the truthe of al these thinges/the Pope hym selfe can be a witnes. Suche as remayne vnbanished/where as they were wont to be moste fyne/braue/ & gorgeouse in all Italy/they be now brought so lowe/with payeng importable Tares/ Tolles/and payments/that with the litel portion remaynyng of their reuenew/ they be scarsly able to beare out the countenaunce of gentlemen. After the Spaniards had thus obtained the ouerhand/ commaundement was sent out by the kynge of Spayne/that no marchaunt/nor Artificer should kepe any kynde of armor or weapon in his house/ no/not so muche as a sworde or a dagger. The gentlemen only be lycenced for their swordes and targats/other kynde either of harnes or weapon they maye kepe none. Other inconuenientes wher with the people there be sondry wayes greued/be dyuerse: aswell by dayly punishments/ tormentes/ and death without any kynde of cause/ as by importable tares/ tributs and loanes/ wherwith all men be taxed/sauing the onely Spaniardes. Who/ be free to say & do what them lust without check: to bye/and sell without taxe or tributs/to robbe & spoyle without punishement. If all the payments that al the kyngs which reigned before in Naples/ were put together/they are not comparable to the extraordinary taxes which the kynge of Spaine hath exacted of them. For euery fourth or fyfthe yere they pay somtyme two hundreth thousande/ and somtyme foure/and somtyme a million of gold besydes all other ordinary payments/which be otherwyse so great/and haue brought the people to suche pouertie/that great nombres of them be forced to forsake their countrey and fall/some to robbyng and some to beggynge. The vnrighteousnes there vsed by the kynge of Spayne and his ministers is vnspeakable. All meanes possible that cā be deuised to spoile the poore subiectes of the realme

of

of theyr goodes/landes/and lawfull inheritaunce/ is there practised/and put in execution/& amongst many other this is one. All men be called/and required by what tytell they holde their landes / & all suche as haue nothynge presently to shewe/be thrust out / though they be able to declare their possession of a C.or CC.yeres continuaunce . Another of their practises is/to call all suche as by thē selues or by their aūcetours haue borne any kynd of office in the common welth/to account: and notwithstanding they haue made their account many yeres before/and receyued their Quietus est/yet yf any kynd of fauour shal appeare to haue ben shewed/or els the quittaunce be lost by reason of tyme/they be condemned to make payment agayne of euery peny. These two Spanysh practises alone were ynough to destroy a whole cōtrey. But besids these/The Spanysh kynge hath his special tare of all thinges that is eaten/ dronken worn or vsed in the countrey/ yea for euery Christening and mariadge he hath sumwhat/as herafter may appeare.

Because the Coyne of Naples is straunge to Englishe men/therfore I haue set forth/ as nighe as may be/the trew sterlinge value of their sondry sortes of coynes/and haue declared the Spanishe tolles/ tares/ and accises accordyngly.

They haue lytel peces of money named Cauallucht.

whereof.v.make	j.turnese	farthing.q.ster.
ij.turneses make	j grane	ob.q.sterlinge.
x.graines make	j.Carline	vij.d.ob. sterlinge.
x.Carlines make	j.ducat	vi.s.iij.d. sterlinge.
xi.Carlines make	j.Crown	vi.s.x.d.ob.sterlinge

The ordinary customes/and exactions increased within this ten yeres in the kyngdom of Naples/ sence the kynge of Spayne hath borne rule there / and hath nowe placed the lyke exactions also in Millan/ and will no doubt practise them in Englande/yf the Crowne be graunted hym.

Bochers paye.

For euery Oxe alyue xb. d. sterlyng.
For euery Cow alyue xb.d. sterl.
For euery styer alyue x.d.ob.q. ster.
For euery kyd and lambe alyue iij.d.ob.q. ster.
And after it is kylled/for euery ix. pound weyght one wyth an other far.q.ster.
For euery ix.li.weight of beale ob.q.ster.

Pulters paye.

For euery hen ob.q.ster.
For euery capon iij.d. ster.
For euery hundreth byrdes/& foule iij.d.ob.q.ste.
For euery hundreth of eggs x.egges.
The farmar of the buchery and pultry of the cytie of Naples paye dayly ccc.Ducates.

Cookes and bitterylers pay.

For euery tun of wyne iij.ducates sterling.
For yerely obedience of euery one v.duc.ster.

Shomakers paye.

For euery great hyde they occupie j.duc.ster.
For euery styers hyde they occupye iij.ß. j.d.ob.q.ster.
For euery calues skin they occupie xb.d.ster.
For yerely obedience euery one j.frenche crowne.

Silke makers paye.

For euery bagge of sylke wormes xb.d.ster.
For yearly obedience euery one v.frenche crowñ.

Potecaries and Grossers.

For euery bagge of spice at the vnshipping xb.d.st
For euery pound weight of the same at the custome house ob.q.sterling.

Mariners

Mariners paye.

For euery ſhip laden they bryng into the hauen vi.ſ.iij.d.ſterlynge.

For euery lytell veſſell iij.d.ob.q.ſter.

Marchauntes paye.

For euery pece of cloth at the vnſhipping xb.d.ſt

For euery pound of euery pack of marchaundiſe what ſo euer it be j.d.ob.q.ſter.

Horſes.

For euery daye that a horſe is let to hyer ob.q.ſt

When a man ſelleth a horſe/ he payeth for euery crowne that he receiueth j.d.ob.ſterling.

Chambers.

He that letteth a chamber/payeth for euery moneth xb.d.ſterling.

Chymnyes paye.

For euery one in the houſe yerly vi.ſ.iij d.ſt.

Whores paye.

Euery common whore yerly iij.ſ.j.d.ob.

Fruterers pay/ For euery moneth vij.d.ob.ſter.

Chriſtening of Chyldren.

Euery childe Chriſtened doth paye vij.d.ob.ſt.

Mariages paye.

Euery one that is maryed payeth iij.d.ob.q.ſt.

Pauing.

For mayntenaunce of the pauyng of the cytie euery houſe payeth yerly vij.d.ob.ſter.

Fewel payeth.

For euery horſe lode of wood and coole j.d.ob. ſterlyng.

Bakers paye.

For euery C.lib.weyght of meale vij.d.ob.ſt.

For yerely ſtanding in the market which he is bownd to vi.ſ.iiij.d.

For euery C.lib.of graines of bread vii.d.ob.ſterl.

Ropemakers paye.

For euery ix.foote of rope they ſell far.q.ſt.

Water bearers.

Pay yerly iij.ſ.i.d.ob.ſter.

Fyſhermen paye.

For

For euery pound of fishe they take. far.q. ster.

Cariage payeth.

For euery fardel that is caried in or out of Naples beyng more then the burthen of the arme. ob.q.sterlinge.

Cattell.

Euery head of great cattell payeth iiij. cauallucchi and euery head of small payeth ij: whiche amounted the laste yere in ij. Shyres Apulia and Calabria/to foure hundreth thousande frenche crownes sterlinge.

A taxe this yere.

Ther is a taxe there/this yere of six hundreth thousande frenche crownes sterlinge.

Spyes.

Ther be many spyals/ who harken yf any man grudge or myslyke the gouernment of the Spaniardes: & they haue a pece euery moneth iiij. frenche crownes.

These and suche lyke taxes/ tolles/ accises & yerly payments be entred also with the Spanish kyngs dominion/ into the dukedome of Milan. Wher ther is a newe taxe presently leuied of euery man woman and chylde to paye one ducat/and of this taxe the childe that is but one daye olde / is not fre. Euery chymney payeth a ducat/and for euery quantitie of a kylderken of wyne (whych is ther common drynke) v.ß. of their money / and for euery quãtitie of iiij. bushels of all kynde of corne v.ß. of their money/and besydes all this/they must delyuer viij. thousande oxen to the Spanish king to serue his Warres presently. And what vnreasonable taxes/the same kyng hath set and leuied vpon Flanders & the lowe countreys / besydes that it is set forth in print otherwyse/the Englyshe mẽ that haue trauayled there/can beare witnes/ and therfore is not so nedefull to be declared. But who hath more nede to loke to these thynges then the Quene her selfe: may she thynke/that the Emperour wyll put all hys kyngdomes and domini-

ons

ons into the handes of one / of whome his sone can haue no issue? who seeth not / that yf he be once crowned and haue his wyll in Englande / he wyll rather dispatche her and take a yonger / of whome he maye haue children / then suffer any man or woman that is not of his house and kyndred to reigne after hym? Who hath not herde / that when it was knowen the Queene was not with childe / the Emperour should practise to vndoe the mariage betwene his sonne kynge Philip & the Quene (wyych in dede is no mariage but altogether vnlawfull) and to haue his sayd sone mary the kynge of Portingals doughter / with whome he was before ryghtly contracted? Who can not thynke but the Italiās haue herde somwhat / seyng they haue layd wagers / that yf the kynge of Spayne obteyned not the crowne / he wolde not retourne againe into Englande / when he should come into Flaunders? Is it not a spyte to Englishe men great ynough / that Englande is called a newe Spayne? Were it not more mete that Spayne should be called a newe Englande? Eyes se well enough thoughe they speake not / so that the quest can lack no information when traytours shalbe examined.

Mens eares also wyll this next parliament trye out traytours / by markynge who talketh for his countrey / and who kepeth silence. If one traytour be able to destroye a whole realme / how can Englande be safe / wher ther be so many? If God wyll not suffer treason to scape vnpunished / how can those traytours thynke either themselues / or the continuaunce of theyr house sure / who be openly knowen to all the worlde by theyr dayly doynges / to seke the destruccion of theyr countrey. Shall a man thynke their daye of punyshment farre of / when their heape of synne can growe no greater?

And where as the preachers of Englande in these dayes abuse the pulpets / to deceaue the people with vanities / and lyes: and haue of late / amongest other vntruthes / attempted to persuade the Popes late bull (set forth in print for the excō-

municacion

munication of all maner ſuche perſons/ without exception / as kepe any of the churche or Abbey landes) is not ment for Englande: I praye thee good reader/to conſider/and way the mater ſubſtā cially/and thou ſhalt perceaue that the reſtitutiō of the abbey landes of England is the chief or rather the only cauſe therof. Whych thing is eaſye to proue thus. The commaundement for reſtitution of abbey landes/cōmeth not forth for any countrey where abbey landes be not takē away / (that is to ſay) for Italy/ Spaine/ Fraūce/ Scotland/ or any other place or countrey/ wher abbeis haue not ben put downe/ and their landes taken away: for that were a thyng not nedefull. And as vayne a matter were it to ſet it forth for Germany/ or Dēmark / or any other place or countrey where the goſpel of Chriſt is taught and receaued: for the Pope knoweth wel ynough/ that there his labour ſhould be but ſpent in vayne: for that he is not ignoraunt they will not obey him/ beyng perſuaded by Gods worde that he hath nothyng to do with them. Wherfore it remayneth/ that the ſayd bul is chiefly ſet forth for reſtitution of the churche and abbey landes of Englande. Where though they be taken awaye / yet is ther ſome hope of reſtitution/ wherunto the Quene in her procedinges / & Fekenam with his balet of Caucat emptor / take hede I ſay: and other preachers in their ſermons/ and the Cardinall in his diſpenſation in latin ſet forth in the ſtatutes of the laſt Parliament haue made a redy waye.

Moreouer it is playne / by the Popes bull/ that all of all ſortes ſtande preſently/ by vertue of the ſame bul/ excommunicate: aſwell all ſuche / as haue any of the churche or abbey landes / as alſo al ſuche Princes/ Byſhoos/ noble men/ iuſtices of the peace/ and other in office/ who haue not / & do not/ forth wyth put the ſame bul in execution. And what is the cauſe/ the Byſhops be bolde to execute the Popes lawes vpon ſome of the clergye/

who

who haue ben burned in Englande/for refusyng to obey the same: and the same byshops dare not as yet/ attempt the lyke punishment of lyke sorte/ dew to all suche as (after the Popes bull set forth) refuse to restore the churche and abbey landes/ which ought to be restored by force of the same lawes: None other cause truely/but that the tyme present serueth not the byshops so well for the one/as for the other. No man is so ignorant but he knoweth right well/the desyre of the Bishops is to haue abbey landes restored / and their onely staye is because the tyme serueth them not. What obseruers of tyme they be/ ye maye learne/as well by the lorde Chaunceleres recantacion at Paules crosse before the kyng and the Cardinall in aduēt last/as by all their other practises. Then yf they tary only for a day/what other curtesie shal the nobilitie / the gentlemen/and other/loke for at their handes/then eyther to restore agayne their abbey landes/whan tyme shall serue according to the tenor of the Popes bull: or els for refusyng to obeye the same/suffer death with the rest/who were for lyke disobedience to the Popes lawes/burned before their faces: The fagots be alredye prepared/in that they al stand alredy/by the Popes sentence excommunicate and accursed. Nothing wanteth but a day to kyndel the fyre. Therfore once agayne

I

saye.

Beware of had I wyst.

An. D. 1555.